# The DX Bulletin

• America's Oldest Weekly Amateur Radio Publication •

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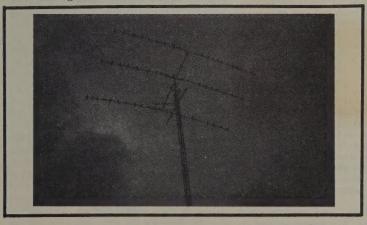
PROPAGATION: Feb 7, High/Above Normal; Feb 8, High Normal; Feb 9, 10, Above Normal; Feb 11, 12, High/Above Normal; Feb 13, 14, High Normal; Feb 15, High/Above Normal; Feb 16, High Normal; Feb 17, Below Normal. TNX N4XX.

| Flux (81) | Flux (82) | Flux (83) | Flux (84) | Flux (85) | Date | Flux1 | A<br>986 | K |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|-------|----------|---|
| 162       | 154       | 118       | 117       | 85        | 1/24 | 69    | 15       | 3 |
| 180       | 177       | 127       | 133       | 81        | 1/25 | 70    | 22       | 2 |
| 180       | 192       | 148       | 152       | 76        | 1/26 | 70    | 10       | 3 |
| 184       | 203       | 138       | 165       | 73        | 1/27 | 69    | 25       | 2 |
| 200       | 233       | 145       | 178       | 72        | 1/28 | 72    | 25       | 4 |
| 211       | 275       | 154       | 174       | 72        | 1/29 | 73    | 15       | 4 |
| 216       | 293       | 160       | 18        | 71        | 1/30 | 76    | 15       | 3 |
|           |           |           |           |           |      |       |          |   |

## NATIONAL CONTEST JOURNAL TO SPONSOR NEW CONTEST

WITH THE DROPPING of, first, the ARRL CD Parties and then the short-lived ARRL QSO Party, the only purely U.S./Canada contest of the year was the Sweepstakes. The National Contest Journal seeks to remedy this by sponsoring a "1986 North American QSO Party" (actually two, one CW and one Phone). The complete rules will be in QST. CW will be April 12/13, and Phone April 19/20. North American stations (as defined by CQ, with the addition of KH6) will be able to work anybody, anywhere, 160-10 Meters. Stations outside North America will compete by working North American stations only.

This contest really is different from all others; it is not like the ARRL DX Contests, because North American stations can work each other, it is not like the Sweepstakes because North Americans can work DX, and it differs from the IARU Radiosport Championship in that DX will be looking to work North Americans only (not to mention that propagation stands to be much better in April than in July!). Should be very interesting.



## NOTES

- KS6DV/KH1 reportedly will be on Canton Island until next January; we have seen no reports on him yet.
- VQ9QM (W4QM) will continue from Diego Garcia until the middle of this month.
- VR6JR left Pitcairn Jan 24; as of the 16th he had made over 11,000 contacts in the past year.
- FCC has adopted a Report and Order to allow Phone operation at 7075-7100 by General and above licensees in he "Caribbean Insular Areas" (south of 20 degrees north latitude), effective Feb 28.
- north latitude), effective Feb 28.

   5V7AS (IT9AZS) finishes Feb 4 and moves to Benin, TY, on the 5th.
- The Colvins still do not know where they will go after the Botswana A25/W6KG operation; they are hoping it will be Malawi, 707, for which there still is a great demand for CW contacts. The alternative would be Zimbabwe, for which there is virtually no demand.
- AZIA is appearing from the S. Orkneys, and will be there until Feb 20; he likes 3778 at 0600Z and 14.080 RTTY around 0000Z. QSL LUBDTO.
- Good quote from England's <u>DX News Sheet</u>: "It is believed that at least one <u>G station has</u> worked over 30 Zones on Top Band but, unfortunately, the <u>G 160 Meter men are a secretive bunch who rarely share information with lesser mortals</u>, so we'll probably never know ..."
- DKIRV noted that our 1985 summary (Issue 317/318) failed to mention the reason why FOOXX Clipperton was so difficult to work in Europe. He's right, but we had quoted W6OAT as to the reasons in earlier issues. Maybe there will be another expedition to there before too long.
- One of the net-types has been saying that 6W1HB/70 was on briefly from S. Yemen (Aden) Jan 20 but shut down due to the hostilities. We have no idea if that's true, nor do we know if anyone could get a written permit to operate. If the Soviets move in to prop up their puppet government, as in Afghanistan, we could be in for a very long amateur radio drought from S. Yemen.
- Thanks to WlWY for reminding us that two new prefixes are ZF8 Little Cayman, and ZF9 Cayman Brao.
- One reader objected to our editorial reply to the NZART paper on DXpeditions (Issue 319), saying we own New Zealand and the NZART an apology. We enouurage you to re-read the paper (and the TDXB reply) and draw your own conclusions.
- Recall last spring we had a report from someone who had been in Japan and couldn't find any TS930s or accesories for same? We concluded that maybe the TS940 would replace it. You could hear the hollering from Trio-Kenwood U.S.A. all the way to Andover.

That same reader has returned from Japan again and, guess what? The TS930 is not even listed in the complete Kenwood/Japan catalog. Make of that what you will. Our correspondent also notes the continuing decline of the dollar relative to the yen, and notes that prices of JA radios are overdue to go up in the States, just as the prices of Japanese cars have.

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### ARRL BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

ARRL'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS met for their first of two 1986 meetings January 23 and 24. Of interest to DXers and contesters:

• The Board endorsed a 160-Meter Band Plan that "recommends 1800-1840 KHz for CW, RTTY and other narrow-band modes, 1840-2000 KHz for CW, SSB, SSTV, and other wide-band modes, and further recommends that only intercontinental QSOs take place in 1830-1850 KHz.

Several things should be noted; first, by a 10-5 vote, the Board chose <u>not</u> to petition FCC for a rules change which would make the band plan mandatory. However, this was the first time the Board had even considered a 160 Meter band plan. Second, the recommendation does <u>not</u> deal with the traditional "DX Window" of 1825-1830, where there are more and more N. American stations transmitting these days, against the traditional agreement.

Those directors who voted in favor of petitioning the FCC for a formal rules change included Frenaye, Ferdinand, Milius, Wangler, and Wilson.

- Director Frenaye, KIKI, moved that the President (of ARRL) is to "actively pursue a uniform IARU policy regarding awards credit for contacts made on 10 MHz," but the motion was changed to read "The President is to actively pursue persuading IARU to adopt a policy regarding awards credit for contacts made on 10 MHz similar to that of ARRL." The motion passed in that form. In other words, the Board will ask IARU to come around to the ARRL position on 10 MHz, i.e., no awards credit of any kind. It should be remembered that 10 MHz is a band still shared with commercial interests in the U.S. but not in the rest of the world.
- However, (Minute 50) the Board voted to allow awards credit on all amateur bands, except 10 MHz, thus opening 24 MHz contacts for awards credit. In addition, 24 MHz will be opened for Field Day contacts, but not for other contests.

- In other matters, it was reported that League membership increased 15,000, or about 12 per cent, in 1984, the best one-year jump ever. The DXCC paperwork backlog was reported getting better. A committee decided, after a year's deliberations, that moving ARRL Headquarters to another part of the country was not feasible. A search will begin for a site for the 1989 ARRL National Convention; 1989 is the League's 75th anniversary.
- The DX Advisory Commottee liaison, N4MM, reported that the committee is still working on a 50th anniversary DXCC award, and on updating and clarifying the DXCC country criteria. The Board voted to change its mandate regarding monthly columns in QST, meaning that in the future the columns will not necessarily have to appear every month; this was aimed at columns which do not always have enough good material to warrant a column, and it does not appear that "How's DX" will be affected.

Director KIKI had presented a study of QST, comparing 1979 to 1985, and found that there are now 42 (yes, 42) regular monthly columns in the journal. He found that Operating News dropped from 1.7 per cent of the magazine in 1979 to just 0.1 per cent last year (that's because the Communications Manager no longer writes a column), and that DXCC listings rose in page space from 1.2 to 1.9 per cent (even though the Honor Roll is now published only once a year instead of twice). Contests have dropped 25 per cent in page space, while entries have dropped only 20 percent (due to declining sunspots).

KIKI's conclusion was that QST would be a better magazine if the columns were limited and replaced by a couple more feature articles each month.

• A special study committee has been appointed to look into the effectiveness of the entire volunteer advisory committee program. This is primarily because the advisory committee system has become unwieldy, and is underfunded, making in-person meetings impossible.

"OM RUDI, DJ5CQ, on his second expedition to Lord Howe, has met with unbelievable disasters. Rudi has been here since September 1985 with the goal of giving the rare country to as many DX amateurs as possible.

"Rudi, operating as VK9NM/LH, installed a 2 element triband beam and a vertical for 40. After about two weeks Rudi, eager to install a delta loop for 80, climbed a 20-meter high pine tree to put the antenna up. That first antenna was felled by a severe story, and he is now on his fifth 80 meter antanna.

"Sometime around November 6, Rudi began complaining of not feeling well, but did not want to see a doctor. On November 9, I dragged Rudi to see the local doctor, who happened to be Ken Hicks, VK9LK, who diagnosed a serious illness which required emergency treatment.

"The Royal Australian Air Force medical team came complete with an operating theater and four doctors, arriving at 1 a.m. Nov 10 in a Nercules aircraft from Sydney. They landed on a 900 meter airstrip lit by kerosene lamps in 40 kph crosswinds and a very heavy rain.

## THE VK9LM STORY

by "SWL Hans, of Lord Howe Island"

Conditions were so bad that the pilot saw the strip only 30 seconds before touchdown. Needless to say, the Lord Howe Island airport does not have instrument approach capabilities.

"Within one hour of their arrival the RAAF medical team had set up in the island's three-bed clinic a complete operating theater and successfully performed a life-saving operation on Rudi. The next morning, he was flown to a Sydney hospital by the RAAF team.

"Rudi recuperated in Sydney for four weeks, the first eleven days in hospital, with the aid and assistance of Manfred, VK2BZW. He returned to Lord Howe Dec 5, with a new call, VK9LM. Shortly thereafter, Rudi received word that his mother, in Germany, had been hospitalized with a possible serious illness.

"On Jan. 8, 1986, came word from Rudi's family that his ham shack had

burned to the ground, taking 27 years' worth of QSLs with it. The bungalow/ham shack had been completed just before Rudi left for the South Pacific, and had not yet been insured.

"DJ5CQ's life's work in amateur radio and his retirement home are now in ashes. Rudi has financed all of his expeditions without any help from companies, DX clubs or individuals. I believe that 100 years will pass in amateur radio history before another amateur has so much misfortune served upon him during an expedition" (but several amateurs have died on expeditions -ed).

"Lord Nowe Island is a small community of about 270 people; some \$250 has been collected from the residents for Rudi. I wish to appeal to all DX amateurs worldwide to rally to Rudi, VK9LM, support so that he can rebuild his life in Germany. Support should be directed to his home address: DJ5CQ, Alter Nain 23, D8601 Ebing-Bamberg, West Germany."

/s/ Hans J. Rueckert Lord Howe Island 2898 AUSTRALIA

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## **FIRST CLASS MAIL**

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| AM. SAMOA-KH8<br>ANTARCTICA<br>ARMADILLO RUN<br>ARUBA-P4                        | ZE, 9J, and CR8 possible through April; QSL TO YASME.  By DF6FK, DL2ZAD Feb 7-19 3Y9WT there now; I317 In May and July; I321. More info K5R(A new DXCC country beginning Jan 1; by K9VV group Feb (Issue 319). PAOVDV will try in Feb for P4 |
|---|--|
| BAHAMAS -C6A<br>BENIN -TY   | BY N6EK FEB 13-16; I321<br>By S90AS Italian group starts Feb 5   |
| CAMEROON-TJ<br>CAMBODIA-XU<br>CANTON-KHI<br>CAYMANS-ZF<br>CHAGOS<br>CHATHAM-ZL7 | TJ1CH try 14.183 at 2000Z  XU1SS in JA, Europe, 0900Z  KS6DV/KH1 rumored there now  ZF2HI for ARRL Phone; I319  VQ9LD try 7005/1300Z long path  VQ9LM by W4QM to mid-Feb  ZL7AA no reports recently 1/86                                     |
| CHINA-BY<br>CURACAO-PJ<br>CYPRUS BASES  | BY1QH, BY1SK active 20 SSB PJ9J by WlBIH for ARRL Contest 2C4HMS, ZC4ESB active; ZC4MR on with W7PHO, 14.225 at 1600Z ZC4MR now on 75 SSB  |
| E CAROLINES -KC6  | KC6JC back on Ponape, 20/40 M.<br>by KZ5M in Feb; Issue 320  |
| FALKLANDS -VP8<br>F DE NORONHA<br>FR JOSEF LAND                                 | VP8BGO, VP8WTW active<br>PY7PO/PYO rumored starting now<br>UV100, UA10T very active; Issue 319   |
| GRENADA-J3<br>GUINEA-BISSAU-J5  | K4LTA group in Feb; I320<br>J5UAG active; no recent reports 1/86   |
| IVORY COAST-TU  | K1CTK likes 14.183 net at 1900Z  |
| KERMADEC-ZM8  | ZL80Y staying until Aug or Sept  |
| LEBANON-OD<br>LORD HOWE-VK9   | EI9FG/OD5 there several months<br>VK9NM by DJ5CQ ends soon; I322<br>he wants QSLs direct there, to<br>Box 5, L.H. Island 2898, Australia   |
| MADEIRA -CT3<br>MALAGASY-5R<br>MAURITANIA                                       | W2ZZ/CT3 there now; I320<br>5R8AL try 20, 40 Meters SSB<br>try Fri, 21.330, 16-1700Z<br>5T5SR on 15, 20 SSB and CW; QSL N4GND  |
| MONGOLIA-JT<br>MONTSERRAT-VP2M  | JTOXC (OKIXC) on now, low bands<br>KILLN/VP2M Feb 24-Mar 1   |
|   |  |

W6KG/W6QL at A25/W6KG; next stop

unknown; left are 70, S8,

| . 521           |   |
|-----------------|---|
| OGASAWARA -JD   | JH5EES there on-and-off; no reports                       |
| P.N.GP29        | P29JS is now back at VK9NS                                |
| SAO TOME-S9     | S92LB on 14.183 2030-2330Z4<br>his QSLs are good for DXCC |
| SO GEORGIA      | VP8BFC rumored; no reports                                |
| SO ORKNEYS      | AZIA on now, 75 SSB and 20 RTTY                           |
| SO SHETLANDS    | ZXOECF reported in Europe                                 |
| ST KITTS        | K2LE/V4 now to Feb 4; K4FW/V4 also                        |
| ST VINCENT -J88 | By K6HCV rumored starting Feb 10                          |
| SUDAN-ST        | 6T2MG and 6T1YP active                                    |
| SVALBARD-JW     | JW5VAA, JW5E, JW0A on: I310                               |
| SVALDARD SW     | SHOVAN, SHOE, SHOW OIL, 1510                              |
| TOGO -5V        | 5V7AS by S90AS group until Feb 4                          |
| TOKELAUS-ZK3    | ZK3RW by ZL1AMO in March; I314                            |
| TONGA-A35       | A35WZ by NC7K starts Feb 13; I319                         |
| TROMELIN        | FR7AI probable for Feb; I320                              |
| TURKS -VP5      | By N6EK FEB 21-MAR 4; 1321;                               |
|                 | BY KC2RS FEB 13-MAR 10; 1321                              |
| TURKEY-TA       | TALE on 75; see Bandpass                                  |
|                 |   |
| VATICAN-HV      | HV2VO on 160 recently was a pirate                        |
| VIETNAM-XV      | KM1R rumored there now; I320                              |
|                 |   |
| W CAROLINES     | By KZ5M in Feb; I320                                      |
| W KIRIBATI -T32 | T32BB by DF6FK now to Feb 5                               |
|                 |   |
| 160 METER NET   | With 4X4NJ, 1400Z, Saturday, 14.337                       |
|                 | Info 1900-2000 KHz, 1310                                  |
|                 |   |

### CONTESTS

CQ 160 SSB FEB 21-23
ARRL DX CW FEB 15/16
ARRL DX PHONE MAR 1/2
BERMUDA CONTEST MAR 15/16
CQ WPX SSB MAR 29/30
NA QSO PARTY CW APR 12/13
NA QSO PARTY PHONE APR 19/20
ARMADILLO RUN SSB MAY 3/4
CQ WPX CW MAY 24/25

## **CONTRIBUTORS**

KAIBU, WD5AAM, KIKTB, K7VAY, WB9CIF, W9IL, K9VV, K9EL, W6CF, W0VX, K8GG, K3RR, K1MEM, W9MYG, K0CVD, KA1XN, KB8KW, W8CT, N4NO, W1NH, W1CYB, K6IR, KD7SO, WB8ZRL, KDX1CD, N4KG, K4BAI, W4VQ, W1NG.